# JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Volume V, #4

Winier 1994

Single Copy: \$4.00





# Barber Half Love Token

(Courtesy of Barbara Szcerbiak)

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# JOURNAL OF THE BARBER COIN COLLECTORS SOCIETY

Published quarterly, and dedicated to bringing together a group of people with similar interests in Barber Coinage for the purpose of advancing appreciation of this series.

#### **OFFICERS**

Philip Carrigan ...... President

David Lawrence ......Editor, BCCS Journal

Paul Reuter.....Secretary/Treasurer

John Feigenbaum ......Typesetting/Layout, BCCS Journal

### ON THE COVER...

### BARBER HALF LOVE TOKEN

Barbara Szcerbiak, a Barber collector and Society member from Illinois, submitted this elaborate love token painstakingly carved from the reverse of an 1892 Barber half (photo on the cover taken by Tom Mulvaney). Love tokens on Barber coinage are somewhat elusive and we don't often see interesting examples such as this one.

- Editor

# Back Issues For Sale

Most of the 19 different back issues of the BCCS Journal are still available at \$4.00 per issue. Lower pricing is available on multiple issue orders. Typically \$14.00 for a set of 4 issues.

Write or call:

Paul Reuter 415 Ellen Drive Brookhaven, MS 39601 601-833-5308

# We Need Your Articles!!!

The BCCS *Journal* needs your input! If you've got some information to share with the rest of the Society, we'd like to publish it.

Please send submissions (handwritten, typed and/or on-diskette) to:

#### David Lawrence

C/O B.C.C.S. Article Submission 6095 Indian River Road, Suite 204 Virginia Beach, VA 23464

# **BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

With these remarks, our Society closes a critical pivotal year. You hold the third issue of *The Journal* provided during 1994 to our near three-hundred members. Our financial health is top notch. In all aspects, the rejuvenation of the BCCS has gone well. The next critical milestone will be renewal of memberships: please do this NOW!

Last summer I asked our loyal Secretary/Treasurer, Paul Reuter, to provide me with a listing of BCCS members. It seemed useful to have in hand everyone's name and address and I additionally wanted to look at who we had on the roster. One interesting observation I made during this casual review was the appearance of over fifteen names of nationally recognized dealers one would find at an ANA or Long Beach show. (I apologize to the local and vest-pocket dealers who I can't identify, my remarks apply to you equally.) I don't know how our number of dealers rank compared to other specialty clubs; about average I guess. These individuals have likely determined that their support of our Society is warranted, however, I doubt this is the primary motive, Rather, I believe they count on finding useful, poignant and new information from Barber collector/researcher enthusiasts. We need to 'feed' this publication with such information, build on our base of knowledge, and cultivate those who look forward to such intellectual treasures.

During late September, I had the opportunity to assist at a dealer's table at the Milwaukee Numismatic Society Show. The three days I spent there were long and even tiring but real fun and an opportunity to learn. The business of coin dealer is a fascinating endeavor. In a hard to define sense, there is a culture or practice among these individuals which relies on integrity, trust, knowledge, not taking oneself too seriously, risking buying something which may be great but might not and so on. Buying or selling as a dealer is different than in the role of collector but most of the foregoing attributes apply to either group. In my 40 years of collecting (I started as a wee lad), a trusted dealer is more valuable than most items purchased. Get to know several dealers and find one who is knowledgeable and can cater to your needs. Let this person know you prefer buying from their company and want to establish yourself as someone who will see first new purchases or have a want list in their hands. Other dealers and coins will find their way into your collection but this primary dealer will pay long-term dividends.

Numismatic regards, Phil Carrigan



# FROM THE EDITOR

With this issue, we complete our obligation to provide 4 issues of the Journal to those who paid dues in 1993!

No dues were collected in '94, except from new members. However, thanks to John, we sold advertising. Thanks to Paul we sold back issues and kept membership together when times were tough. We sold virtually all our BCCS medals and our treasury is healthy. This money can be used for several things, such as taking a club table at the ANA, and providing a quality Journal four times a year. So, 1994 had been a great year for the Society. I have been particularly pleased to see our membership grow - it is about 290 last count - and to see contributions from several members. Please keep it up.

I especially want to thank and welcome Tom Mulvaney. Tom is a great coin photographer and has done the photos for this issue gratis – as he often does for non-profit societies.

Also, Steve Epstein our "Founding Father" used to run a *Question and Answer* section. We are going to revive this. Please send your Barber related questions and I'll try to answer them. If I don't know the answer I'll ask Jack Beymer or other professionals and, if necessary, we will send the coin to ANA or ANACS at our expense.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** please renew your membership. \$15 gets you four issues of the *Journal* first class and it keeps the Society going. Be sure to tell a friend; our aim is 500 members!

<b>Barber Dimes For</b>
-------------------------

1893	AU55 Nice light toning	
1893-O	XF45 Medium grey surfaces	
1899	AU50 Medium grey, original	\$50.
1900-S	AU50+ White	\$ 75.
1901-S	XF40 Old cleaning, coloring back	\$ 300.
1902	AU50 Light grey, original	\$ 45.
1906	AU55 Very choice, light color	\$ 50.
1907	AU50 Light grey, original	\$ 45.
1907-S	XF-AU Olive, red highlights	\$ 50.
1908	AU50 Light grey, original	\$ 45.
1909-S	XF40 Light olive surfaces, cheek nick	\$ 110.
1910-S	XF-AU Some light scrapes, album rim toning	\$ 75.
1912	AU-58 Super slider, nice color	\$ 80.
1915	AU55+ Bright white	

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#### CHERRY-PICKING BARBER VARIETIES

by Jack White, #704

Below are my top ten favorite varieties for Barber coinage. All three denominations are represented. A few are easily found, others are very difficult. All are a challenge. Enjoy the hunt!

#### 1893-S/S DIME — L-101

True repunched mintmark. This coin can be located without a lot of difficulty. More important, it is spectacular to look at. I've found them readily up to VG - but I've never seen a higher grade one. I can only imagine how impressive the double mintmark looks in XF and above. Though there's not a great premium for this coin in lower grades, the first time you find one will be an eye opener! Can be readily identified even in AG.

#### 1901-O/O DIME (HORIZ O) — L-103

This variety can be found in lower grades with patience. It's a little tougher than the 1893-S/S and tougher to identify in Good. I've seen it retail for \$13 in AG - \$19 in Good. Frankly, Good is the lowest grade it can positively be identified in. I've found a nice XF+ but no mid-range grade coins.

#### 1905-O DIME (MICRO "o") — L-101

Very well known and since it's now in the *Red Book* tough to Cherry-pick. Easy coin to find in Good - I must have a dozen I've bought the last few years at \$2 each. Very tough in Fine and above. I own one VF+ and have seen an AU with major trouble. A must coin for any Barber collector.

NOTE: The day after I wrote the above I bought a Fine coin from a dealer for no premium over the normal mintmark. He was a Lincoln cent variety specialist with an album full of mirror cent errors and repunchings with a copy of Breen's Encyclopedia on his table. One never knows when lightning will strike! (Editor's note - I know of 4 uncirculated specimens).

### 1914-D/D DIME "BLUNDERED D" — L-101

Very difficult to find and almost as difficult to identify if you've never seen a photo. Suggest you glance at "The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes" page 109, since it's not in any other readily available reference that I am aware of. The mintmark exhibits strike doubling. I've found a nice XF -the only coin I've ever seen. Probably need a FINE coin or better to identify this one. I've never seen this variety offered for sale, which makes it much tougher than the 1901-O over horizontal "O", in my opinion. The mintmark is much more widely punched than the 1893-S/S but the upper part is partially effaced. Definitely worth looking for especially since the 1914-D dime is so common in Fine and above.

# 1892 "P" AND "O" QUARTERS DOUBLE DIE OBVERSE — L-104 AND L-103

The doubling is most obvious in the motto IN GOD WE TRUST on both coins which are very similar. I've only been aware of them for six months and have managed to find two "O" in high grade and one "P" mint. Are they readily available or have I just been lucky? Only time will tell. You'll probably need a grade of at least FINE to identify these. I've spent ten minutes trying to decide whether a G/VG coin I own is the variety or not. Don't waste your time on low grade coins. All three of my coins are Type II reverses, for what it's worth.

#### 1893-S/S QUARTER — L-601, L-101

This is hands down my favorite Barber variety, though I've never seen a single coin or even a photo. Dave Lawrence reports he has never seen the coin either! I recently offered double bid on a F to XF coin without a response. Wishful thinking. The secondary mintmark is completely repunched from the original by the width of a mintmark. With widely spaced mintmark existing on both the 1893-S dime and quarter I've checked every 1893-S half dollar to cross my path the last few years for a similar occurrence without success. Of course my odds have been poor because most 1893-S halves existing have AG or Good reverses. If you do find this variety PLEASE contact the editor. I'm sure he and many others would love to see a photo of it. (EDITOR'S NOTE: A photo is shown in the Wexler-Miller RPM Book.)

### 1916-D/D — L-101 & 102

This variety comes in many forms. The two most obvious are a double mint mark connected to the eagle's tail and a clear "D" showing inside the main one. These are both easy to identify and locate. The variety where the mint mark is connected to the tail is visible even on AG coins. You won't need much luck to find this variety.

#### 1892 HALF TRIPLE DIE REVERSE — L-102

This coin is easy to identify with nice tripling showing on the legend, especially HALF DOLLAR. It won't be easy to find simply because the 1892 half dollar is far from a common date. I've found one specimen, a clear XF, which I passed on. Haven't seen another since. Probably discernible in grades as low as Good.

# 1892-O HALF (MICRO "O") — L-101

Less than twenty examples of this coin are known. Every time I see a 1892-O half I can't wait to view the reverse. I haven't been lucky enough to find one. The 1892-O half is, of course, a key date and most are well worn. Being identified solely by the mintmark the variety is usually apparent on AG pieces. Worth the look because it brings a major premium if located.

### 1907-S/S HALF — L-101

The mintmark is doubled to the North. Easy to locate and spot. The highest grade I've seen is a VG. This is no doubt because the highest grade 1907-S half I've seen is a VG! This variety must look quite nice on a VF coin. Good luck trying to find any 1907-S half in Fine and above. I've been searching for years.

# **SURVEY RESULTS**

Following are the survey results from the Spring 1994 issue of the BCCS *Journals* (the number of responses are in parentesis):

1. Most difficult 10¢ XF-AU:

(excluding:94-S)

95-0 (7)

(2 each)

1897-0, 1908-0

& 1900-0

1896-P, 1896-O (1 each) (Editor's opinion : 1896-O)

2. Most underrated 10¢ XF/AU:

1898-O & 1905-O Micro-o (2 each)

13 other dates: (1 each!) (Editor's opinion: 1896-P)

3. How many 1895-O dimes in existence in:

<u>Grade</u>	Average Answer (Range)	Editor's Guess
AG	10,941 (from 100-40,000)	2,500
G	8,706 (from 75-40,000)	750
VG	3,382 (from 55-20,000)	400
F	1,208 (from 50-10,000)	300
VF	595 (from 45-5,000)	200
XF	288 (from 20-2,000)	150
AU	153 (from 5-1,000)	<75

4. Most Difficult Quarter in XF/AU (3 keys excluded):

97-S (4 1/2) 05-O (3)

08-S, 93-S, 09-O (1 each) 01-S,+97-O, 97-O (1/2 each)

05-O (3) 94-S (2)

[Editor's guess = 09-0)

96-0 (1 1/2)

5. Most underrated Quarter XF/AU (3 keys excluded):

05-0 (4 1/2)

94-O, 01-O, 09-O (1 each)

98-0 (3)

03-P & 10-D, (1/2 each)

08-S (2)

[Editor's Guess = 05-O]

12-S (1 1/2)

6. How many 1901-S Quarters still exist?

AG - 5,017 (Ed.= 750)

VF - 106 (Ed.=80)

G - 1,993 (Ed = 300)

XF - 223 (Ed = 40)

VG - 1,242 (Ed = 150)

AU – 147 (Ed <15)

F - 675 (Ed = 80)

7. Most difficult 50¢ XF/AU

1904-S (5 1/2)

1897-O & S (3 each)

1895-0 (1)

1901-S (1)

1893-S (1/2)

Editor's guess = 04-S

8. Most underrated 50¢ XF/AU

04-S & 07-S (2 each)

97-S, 01-S, 14-P, 04-O, 95-O, 08-P, 96-O, 98-O, (1 each)

03-P, 04-P, 02-S, 95-S (1/2 each)

(Editors guess = 98-O)

9. How many 04-S Halves are in existence?

Grade	Average Answer	Editor's Guess
AG	31,271	(5,000)
G	24,671	(2,500)
VG	20,829	(1,500)
F	9,128	( 300)
VF:	3,947	( 200)
XF	607	(<125)
AU	311	(<75)

Note: Answers to #3,6 & 9 were all over the place and the averages don't indicate how far apart some of the estimates were. There were 18 members who responded to one part or another. Not much for 275+ members. We need more participation!



# **SEEN & HEARD**

# FLASH!

# WHERE HAVE ALL THE 1914-P HALVES GONE?

In Good- Very Good, all the 1914-P half dollars seem to have dissapeared from dealers' inventories. We haven't seen any at all the shows we've attended recently and everyone seems to want them these days. Similarly, but to a lesser extent, the 1913-P and 1915-P halves are also in short supply.

Prediction: Look for prices to rise on these coins - and soon! - Dave Lawrence



# DIGGIN' BARBERS: BARBERS FOUND WITH A METAL DETECTOR

### by Doug Veal

Barber coins have been among my favorites since I started collecting coins in 1970. This was further heightened when I bought a metal detector in 1977. On one of my first outings to an old churchyard, the recovery of a 1911 Barber dime in fine condition put me on a new course in coin collecting. Finding well preserved obsolete United States coin types in the ground fit in perfectly with my coin collecting interests. I started assembling partial coin sets with my detector finds and each trip to the field was full of anticipation of the coins I might add to my collection.

After seventeen years "coinshooting", as it is commonly called, remains a fascinating hobby not only for the thrill of discovery but also as a means of expanding my coin collection. My curiosity about the circulation patterns of older coins, Barber dimes in particular, led to the idea for this study. With the cooperation of three fellow coin shooters, I began to compile information and came up with the following goal:

- 1. Grade each coin in the study and find and average grade.
- 2. Study the distribution of the four mints in coins found.
- 3. Promote treasure hunting and Barber coin collecting.

Eastern Iowa is an excellent location for a study of circulation patterns of Barber dimes because the rich soil conditions and hard winter freezes keep coins at relatively shallow depths and preserve them with minimal corrosion. Also, it is centrally located and roughly had equal proximity to the four mints used in Barber production. The history and growth of the area also correlate with the Barber coinage era.

Older collectors that I have talked to have stated that well worn Barber dimes could be found in circulation in eastern Iowa as recently as the mid to late '50's. Although these late circulation finds were certainly the exception, it is partially supported by the occasional shallow find (2" or less depth) by study participants. The majority of the finds in this study were at a depth of 3-5".

Table 1 gives a breakdown of each date/mintmark variety by grade of the 413 coins in the study. 61 different date/mintmark combinations are represented in the sample including four of the five lowest mintage coins in the series (1895-O, 1896-O, 1901-S, and 1913-S). The average grade of coins in the sample is VG, which comes as no surprise, but what is interesting is the high percentage of F (22.3%) and VF (12.3%) coins as shown in Table 2.

Higher circulated condition coins (XF & AU are certainly unusual finds as they account for less than six percent of the sample.

It has been well documented in several treasure magazines as well as from collectors that San Francisco mint coins are hard to locate on the East Coast. and Philadelphia Mint coins somewhat difficult to find out west. Living in the midwest is

Table 1: Breakdown of date/mintmark variety by grade

TABLE	1: 88	EAKDOW	N OF	DATE\MI	NTMARK	VARIE	TY BY	GRADE
	AG	G	VG	F	VF	XF	AU	TOTAL
1892	1	3	2	1 1	1	1	1	7
1892-0	1 1	1 1	i {	1 1	1	i	1	3   1
1893	1	1 1	1	1	* *	1		1
1893-0 1893-5	; ; 1	1	:	- [	:			2 ;
1894		2	1		:	1	i	3
1894-0	1	1	1	1	:	1	!	
1895-0	1	1	ì	i	1	1	1	1 1
1895-5 1896	1	1	1	1	1	# 1	1	1 1
1896-0		1	1	1 4	1 1	1	1	1 1
1896-S 1897	1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1	1	1	1 7 1
1897-0	1	1	1	1	\$ \$ \$	1	1	3
1897-S 1898	1 3	; ; 5	; 5	1	1	1	1	1 1
1.898-0	1 3	!	3	1 1	1 1	1	1 1	; 16 ;
1898-5	1 1	1 1 3	1 7	1 1	1 0	1	1	3
1899 1899-0	i 4	1 3	1 3	4 8 8	1 2	1	-	12 1
1899-5	1 1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
1900 1900-0	5	1 3	3	1 2	3	1	i 	1 15 ;
1900-5	2	1	1		1	:	1	2 ;
1901 1901-0	2	6	: 3	6	4	1 2	1 5	23
1901-5		1	1		1	1	1	1 1
1902	1 4	7 1	1	1 4	j 1	) )	1	17 ;
1902-5	:	-	1 1		1	1	1 1 1	1 1
1903 1903-0	2	1 4	1 1 3	; 3	1 2	; 2	1	1 14
1903-5	1		:	1	1 3	1 1	1 8 4	1 1
1904 1904-S	2	: 4	3	1 1	1 1	1 3	1 1 3	1 14 :
1905	2	5	. 2	; 1	1	: 2	1	1 1 1
1985-0 1985-5	1 3	!	1 1	1	1	1		2 1
1906	1 1	: 4	4	; 3	1 1	1 1	; 1	; 6;
1906-0 1906-0	t 1			1	!	1	1	1 :
1906-5	: ; 1	1 1 3	\$ 4 4	1 2	1	1	i I	; 3 ;
1907	4	. 7	3	; 5	5	1 1	1	25
1907-0 1907-0	1 4	1 1	1	1 1	: !		; }	2   6
1907-5	3		1	1 1	1	1	1	: 4 :
1908 1908-0		; 3 ; 1	; 1 ; 3	4	2	i	i 	; 8 ; ; 7 ;
1908-0			1	1	1	1	1	2
1908-S 1909	2	! 2 ! 1	I I	1 3	1	1	i	3   6
1909-0		1			1	1	1	
1909-0 1909-5		1	1	1	:	1	1	
1910		2	1	1	1	1	!	4
1910-D 1910-S	1	i i i 4	1	1	1	J i	1	3 ;
1910-5	1	1   4	6	: 6	;   2	1	1	1 2 1
1911-0	1	2	1	; 2	2	1	1	1 8 ;
1911-5 1912	1	1 5	2	1 1 4	!   1	1 1	; ; 1	1 4
1912-D	2	3 6	4	2	1	1	:	8 1
1912-S 1913	1	;   5 ;	1 2	5	; 2	; 3	1	1 1 1
1913-5		1 1	1	1 1	1	1	1	2
1914 1914-0	2	1 2	3 1	; 5; 8	; 6	1	i	9 1
1914-5		1	} }	1 1	† †	1	!	1 1 1
1915 1915-S	1	1	1	1 1	1 1			5
1916	1	3	3	4	4	1		15
1916-5				:	; 2	:	i 	2 1
TOTALS	69	102	77	92	51	18	4	413

a luxury for a coinshooter, as all mints are well represented in finds. My impression before I began the study was that Philadelphia mint coins would overwhelm the coin totals and represent a much higher ratio of the total sample than their actual mintage would suggest. Table 3 gives a breakdown of the sample by mint.

Although Philadelphia mint coins made up a strong majority of the total, they were found at a slightly lower rate than their percentage of total Barber dimes minted. New Orleans and San Francisco coin totals also surprised me. Coins from these two

**Table 2:** Total & Percentage of Coins By Grade

Grade	No. of Coins	% of Total
AG	69 .	16.7
G	102	24.7
VG	77	18.6
F	92	22.3
VF	51	12.3
XF	18	4.4
AU	4	1.0
TOTALS	413	100.0

**Table 3:** Total & Percentage of Coins By Mint

Mint	# Coins	Coins Found % of Total	Actual % of Mintage Totals
Р	278	67.32	68.8
D	47	11.38	10.9
0	44	10.65	9.6
S	44	10.65	10.7
TOTALS	413	100.0	100.0

branch mints made up a much greater percentage of the sample total than I thought would be the case. These results show that eastern Iowa had substantial quantities of coins from all four mints circulating in the early 1900's.

#### Other observations:

- 1. Pre-1898 Barber dimes are uncommon finds, making up less than 6% of the total coins found, with only one coin in VF or higher condition.
- 2. What happened to 1909 Barber dimes in eastern Iowa? No branch mint coins are represented in the sample and only six were found from the Philadelphia mint: this for a coin with a mintage over ten million.
- 3. The 1907 Philadelphia mint dime was champion of the sample with a whopping 25 pieces, not coincidentally this is the highest mintage Barber dime.
- 4. The highest mintage Barber dime not found by study participants was the 1906-D (mintage of 4,060,000). Even the famous wagon train dime of 1907-D had two representatives. Could it be that the Denver mint used a different distribution pattern for the first several years than in later years?

I hope this study is of interest to other BCCS members. To me, coinshooting is the next best thing to going back in time and collecting coins from circulation. The circumstances under which recovered coins were lost will never be known, but will continue to stimulate the imagination of treasure hunters and coin collectors. I would like to hear from other BCCS members that have recovered Barber coins with a metal detector and share my interest. (Editor's note - write Doug c/o the journal office in Virginia Beach.)

		20
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	1907-S 25¢ Choice BU. 15-20% off-center	
	1892-О 50¢ Semi-proof-like AU+	
55	1913 50¢ Dipped AU	
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# **NEW DISCOVERIES & ODDITIES**



1893-P Half Dollar with Repunched Date (Offered to editor at East Coast Expo '94)



1907-S Half Dollar With Die Chip Over Date



1907-D Half Counterstamped by U.S. Servicemen in Hawaii in 1945 (Courtesy of Chris Pilliod)



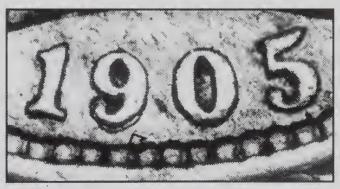
1906-D Half Dollar with 90° Die Rotation



1893-S quarter "struck through" something (Courtesy of Charlie in N.J.)



What's wrong with this 1908-S quarter? The mintmark was added! This XF cleaned & retoned coin was offered to me (as genuine) at the recent Milwaukee show. The proper mintmark for a 1908-S is less sharp – check your collection.



1905-S RPD Dime (New Discovery)

### **TREASURY REPORT**

### NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1994

Opening Balance	Jan. 1, 1994		\$ 2,780.53
Receipts	Dues Advertising Returned Check Back-issue Sales Voided Check Misc.	\$ 712.50 1,092.80 100.00 280.00 10.68 1.00	
	Total		2,196.98
Funds Available			\$ 4,977.51
Expenditures	Reissued Check Refunds Bank Charges Postage ANA Table Journal Production ANA Dues Misc. Printing Misc. Total	\$ 10.68 14.00 6.30 118.87 85.00 2,150.00 60.00 100.00	\$ 2,555.49
Closing Balance	September 30, 1994		\$ 2,422.02
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Signed: Paul Reuter, Treasurer

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### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

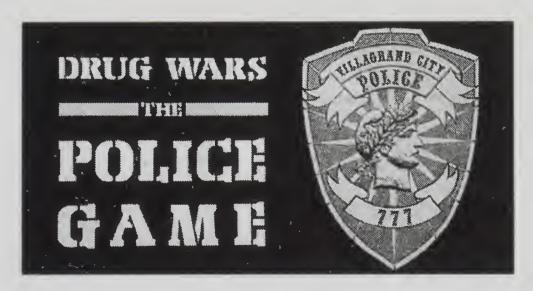
### UPDATE ON BARBER DIME DIE CRACK CONTEST

To date, I have only received two entries (3 coins total) from members and these can be beat! We're looking for interesting and dramatic examples of Barber dimes with die cracks. Win a free membership renewal and get your coin(s) photographed in our *Journal*. Send to me at our office: David Lawrence, P.O. Box 64844, Va. Beach, VA 23464. If sufficiently interesting, I will have your coin photographed and returned to you.

## **BARBER SIGHTING**

### BARBERS GO ANTI-CRIME

BCCS member Karl Schuppenhauer discovered this interesting usage of Charles Barber's Liberty head in an article (*The Buffalo Sunday Magazine*, 8/24/94) describing a new board game called, "Drug Wars: The Police Game."



# Renew Your Membership!

The Society DEPENDS ON YOUR support. Please renew your membership for \$15 for 1995. Send check/money order to secretary/treasurer:

Paul Reuter 415 Ellen Drive Brookhaven, MS 39601

# IN SEARCH OF THE 1905-O MICRO "o"

### by Ken Seholm, #774

My love affair with the 1905 Micro "o" began in the Spring of 1992, shortly after I joined the BCCS. As some of you may recall the BCCS Spring 1992 *Journal* had two articles relating to the Micro "o". the first of these was a reprint of a letter by Tom Miller and the second was the report of a study conducted by H.G. Tom Crogan in "Comments & Controversy".

Prior to joining the BCCS I'd already become immersed in my goal of completing a set of Barber Dimes in fine to extra fine and was aware of the 1905 Micro "o" variety. Now, however, I had truly been bitten by the coin that in my opinion, is the one true "non-error" variety of the Barber dime series and my search began. Three months later in July, 1992 I found my first prize in the case of my favorite dealer who has stated many times that he does not have the time to look for varieties. This coin grades VF30 and is completely original. And of course was purchased at the going rate of a regular 1905-O. I was able to bring it to the BCCS meeting in Orlando and showed it to anyone who would look. During the next year I continued without success to search for another Micro "o" while averaging one or two shows per month.

On July 15, 1993 my family and I embarked on a 21/2 week adventure from Southeast Texas to the ANA Show in Baltimore with the first stop in Birmingham, Alabama for the State show there. It was here that I found my second 1905 Micro "o". This one graded F12 and was a steal at the price of \$12.00.

We actually spent the next ten days vacationing while moving ever closer to the much awaited ANA Show. During the course of this show, I swear I viewed most, if not every, circulated 1905-O Barber Dime (on the bourse floor). For all my effort I found only one Micro "o" (G4) that was not labeled a Micro "o". Of course, I bought it. Did I mention that the fun part is cherrying them? Actually I saw one other, but it was already attributed so I didn't buy it.

My last act at the 1993 ANA Show was to attend the BCCS meeting. While I had to leave early and couldn't stay for the whole meeting I must say that I truly enjoyed meeting other members and found the enthusiasm of those BCCS members attending a pleasure.

But back to the purpose of my tale. On our three day journey back to Southeast Texas my family and I took advantage of every opportunity to not get home that we could. This included stopping at a coin shop in Louisiana. As the owner approached I asked to see what he might have in circulated Buffalo Nickels. (I confess, I collect these too.) As he went on about how no one around there collected Buffalos, how he hardly ever had any and about how slabs and gold were the way to go, he pulled out three boxes of 2X's he said I might look through.

Well, he was right. He didn't have any Buffalos worth looking at. But as any coin addict knows right behind the Buffalo's are the Jefferson's and right behind these are the Bust and Seated Dimes. And naturally, you know what was right behind these. Yes, an unattributed 1905 Micro "o" Barber Dime. This coin graded a strong XF45 and although the dealer who didn't have time for type coins wasn't willing to take anything off (shame on me for even asking!). I decided that I'd purchase it anyway.

It just goes to show, it's the little "o" things in life that count.

Editor's note - now try to find the 1892-O Micro "o" half dollar!



#### Editor's Note

The last issue of our *Journal* was recently described in detail in a *Coin World* article — great publicity for us!

### **BCCS MEMBER SURVEY**

Please take a few moments and respond to this survey. Your responses (anonymous or self-identified will be compiled with those of other members to form a profile. You'll then influence the findings and see how you compare, as a collector, to the masses. Thanks, Phil Carrigan. (clip this page or photocopy and mail)

1.	How long have you been collecting? years
	What are your primary areas of numismatic interest? (e.g., Barber 10¢ and foreign owns)
3.	How do you usually purchase coins? (e.g., local dealer, mail order, coin shows, all bid dealer, major auction company, lucky circulation finds)
4.	Do you attend coin shows?  a. local (number per year)  b. national including ANA (defined as an overnight stay; number/year
5.	Other than BCCS, do you belong to any numismatic organizations?  a. local coin clubs  b. national organizations (e.g., ANA, ANS, etc.)  c. specialty organizations (e.g., EAC, Fly In, JRCS, NLG, etc
6.	What numismatic publications do you read monthly?
	Please suggest areas and questions for further surveys along with topics you wish see discussed in future articles.
to :	see discussed in future articles.

Mail your responses with your membership renewal; don't delay on either—we'll compile results as soon as possible.

Send to: Paul Reuter, 415 Ellen Drive, Brookhaven, MS 39601



### MANUFACTURE OF DIES

### by Charles Barber (1896)

The following article "Manufacture of Dies" written by Charles Barber was published in the 1896 U.S. Mint Report. This interesting article explains in fairly basic detail how dies were made, and how important the design was in making dies that would fully show fine detail.

Barber was criticized for his lack of artistic talent, however it was his technical expertise that dictated his numismatic art. His coins were designed to be durable, functional, and easily made.

— Russell Easterbrooks

Coinage and medal dies are prepared in the following manner: When a coin or a medal is required, the first thing to be obtained is the design; that having been agreed upon, the work of producing the die follows, by one of two methods. The first and oldest is the following:

The design being determined, a drawing is made the exact size of the coin or medal required. From this drawing a tracing is taken for the purpose of transferring the design to the piece of steel that is to be the die.

To transfer the design to the steel, proceed as follows:

Smooth the surface of the steel with a dead smooth file, then go over the face of the die with fine-cutting oilstone or very fine emery, used as a lap. Having obtained a perfect surface on the face of the die, cover the same with a thin coating of transfer wax; then take the tracing which you have made with lead pencil and place that in position, face down, upon the transfer wax, and carefully rub with some smooth instrument, such as a burnisher. When you have rubbed this tracing sufficiently, remove the tracing, and you will find the design transferred to the steel.

This transfer is, of course, very delicate, and easily obliterated; therefore to preserve it, it is best and necessary to go over the lines with a sharp-pointed instrument, graver, or other sharp tool.

The next process is to remove the steel where the form or relief is required, forming an intaglio in the die so that relief may be had on the coin or medal. This is done with chisels and gravers. As the work progresses the engraver wishes to see the effect of his cutting, and from time to time takes impressions from his die in a soft wax or clay.

This is done by having a wood block, on the end of which is placed some soft wax or clay, and by the use of a hammer he drives the soft material into the die, which gives an impression in relief, the same as the coin or medal is intended to be, and in this way he proceeds until he has accomplished the desired result. To prevent the

wax from adhering to the surface of the die, a little plumbago is mixed with the wax ora small quantity is dusted on the surface before taking the impression.

In some cases the die is not brought to a finished state, as some part can perhaps be better done in relief. In that case, when all that can be accomplished to advantage in the die is completed, it is hardened, and a soft-steel impression is taken from it, and the unfinished parts are then completed. This steel relief is in turn hardened, and by means of a powerful press is driven into a soft piece of steel, thus making a die which, when hardened, is ready for use for making coins or medals. It often occurs that all the design can be produced in the die by cutting away the steel, and in that case no hub is taken; the die is fully completed and hardened for use.

Another method, and more modern, is this:

After the design for the coin or medal is settled upon, the engraver prepares a model in wax, or any material he may prefer to use, of the design selected, or as much of it as he may think most desirable for the production of the medal or coin. The model is generally made three, four or five times as large as the finished work is intended to be. When the model is finished an electrotype is made. This electrotype, when sufficiently strong, is prepared for the coin or medal, as the case may be.

The reducing lathe is a machine, working somewhat upon the principle of the pantograph, only in this case the one point traces or follows the form of the model, while another and much smaller point made in the form of a drill cuts away the material, and thus produces a reduction of the model. This process of reducing the design from the model is necessarily a very slow operation, as accuracy of the reduction depends entirely upon the slow motion of the machine and delicate handling of the operator. While it is not in the power of the operator or machine to improve the model, it is quite an easy matter, if not properly managed, for the machine to distort or the operator to lose the delicacy of the model.

The reducing machine can work either from a model in relief or intaglio, though the relief is more often used, and is considered the better way.

In describing this process, I have said the engraver makes a model of the design he wishes to produce, or as much as he thinks desirable. To explain more fully, I would say some designs or parts of a design are not calculated for reducing by machine, and therefore the engraver only reduces so much of the design as he knows from experience will give the desired effect; the rest he cuts in as described in the first method of die engraving, namely, cut with gravers and chisels. When the reduction is made by the machine from the model it is then taken by the engraver and worked over and finished in all the detail and delicate parts, as the machine does not produce an entirely finished work. When finished by the engraver it is hardened and tempered. If the reduction has been made intaglio, when hardened it is completed and is called a die, and coins or medals can be struck from it; but if in relief, it is called a hub, and the process of making a die from it commences, which is done as follows:

The hub or relief being made hard, a piece of steel is prepared in the following manner to receive the impression of the hard hub:

Take a block of steel sufficiently large to make your die, and carefully anneal it until it is quite soft. This is done by heating the steel to a bright red and allowing it to cool very gradually, being careful to exclude the air by packing the steel in carbon. The steel being soft turn off the surface of the block of steel and smooth it before you commence the process called hubbing, which is as follows:

Place the block of soft steel under the plunger of a strong screw press; then put the hard relief or hub on top of the soft steel, and bring down your plunger with a good sharp blow. This will give you an impression upon the soft steel. In order to make a proper impression the process of annealing the steel and the one just described, called hubbing, must be repeated many times, until you have a perfect impression of the hub. This being obtained, you have a die which only requires being hardened and tempered to be ready for use.

The last described process of making dies is only followed for coinage and medal dies of the most artistic character. For all ordinary die work, such as is used by silversmiths and jewelers, the first described method of engraving dies is generally used, it being quicker and sufficiently good for their use.

To harden the steel dies, they are packed in cast-iron boxes filled with carbon to exclude the air, and when heated to a bright red are cooled suddenly with water. As this would leave them too hard, and liable to crack and break on the edges, the temper is what is technically called drawn, which is done by gently heating until you notice a color appearing upon the surface of the steel. A light straw color is a good color for cutting tools, but dies are generally brought to a deeper color, and in some cases to a blue.

# **CLASSIFIED ADS FOR MEMBERS**

Reach 250+ collectors who are serious about Barbers! Any member may run a classified ad in the *Journal*. Rates are \$4 per ad (over 4 lines add 50¢ per line). Send with check to: Editor, BCCS; 6095 Indian River Rd, #204; Va. Beach, VA 23464.

If you have Barbers you want to buy or sell and don't need a lot of space to do it, the Classified Section is for you.

BARBER HALVES WANTED. All coins must be Fine-15, original and problem-free. 1892-O, 1894-S, 1896-O, 1897-O, 1897-S, 1898-O, 1900-P and 1905-O. Please write or call collect. Monte Stewart, 708 Cambridge Drive; Lee's Summit, MO 64086. 1-816-524-3934 after 6 pm and weekends.

# BARBER HALVES — HIGHLY PRIZED BUT HARD TO FIND: PART 2

#### by David Lawrence

The article is the second in a 2-part article which appeared in the JUNE 10, 1994 Coin Dealer Newsletter Monthly Supplement and is reprinted here with their permission.

In last month's issue of the CDN Monthly Supplement, we began our examination of the Barber Halves, covering the issues from 1892-1902. Prices in Part II (as in Part I) are from the April 1994 Monthly Supplement. To repeat my professional opinion, prices for certified Barber Halves are currently too low; the few nice coins that are being sold back into the market are quickly purchased by eager collectors. Looking at the current population profiles and prices, the 'best buys' can be identified for more profitable attention.

The analysis here follows the same form as that for early Walking Liberty Halves which appeared in the September 1993 CDN Monthly Supplement. I have started by combining the certified populations for PCGS and NGC as of March 1994. The dates are ranked in the accompanying table, and I have again created an MS63 Price Index and a Gem Price Index to compare relative values. The MS63 P.I. is derived by multiplying the total population in Mint State by the CDN Monthly Supplement MS63 "Bid" for each given date, and dividing by 1000 to make the result more manageable. For the Gem P.I., the Index is obtained by multiplying the combined certified population in MS65 and above by the "Bid" level in MS65, and likewise dividing by 1000.

The coins with the lowest Index are the best value, but comparisons should not be made across the two indexes. Barber Halves with an MS63 P.I. of less than 50 are undervalued in general in Uncirculated condition in today's market; those with an Index over 85 are relatively expensive. For Gem coins, the Index has surprisingly little spread; except for the 1892-P (which was saved as the first year of issue), all are relatively scarce, and the current "Bid" levels seem to be adjusted to the scarcities. Those with a Gem P.I. below 30 are a great buy - but just try to find them! All common date Gem Barber Halves are underpriced at today's level of \$1850; nice coins just won't come out at this level - not when they used to be more than \$5,000.

1903-P,O&S: What happened to all the 1903-P Barbers - Dimes, Quarters, or Halves? At least the Dimes and Quarters are available in circulated grades, but the Half is tough in all grades. Even VGs are hard to find, and always sell well. We can all read the Pop Reports, but we don't always believe what we see. The "P" Half is still undervalued (MS63 P.I. = 32; Gem P.I. = 27). The "O" ranks 21st overall, which surprises me - I thought it was scarcer! Still, buy any with eye-appeal that you can find. The "S" comes sharply struck and nice examples can be found.

1904-P,O&S: These three issues are desirable. The '04-P is a sleeper, ranking 23rd (Tied) overall and Tied for 11th in Gem condition. Both Price Indexes are low (MS63 P.I. - 35; Gem P.I. = 14). In contrast, both the '04-O and "S" are know scarcities. Before Pop Reports, we would have thought the "O" scarcer than the "S", but it has been evident for several years that the '04-S is the 'King of Barber Halves.' Only 10 of the '04-S have been certified in Mint State, and a few of these are lackluster. This issue should be bought in any grade from Fine up. The '04-O comes flashy, but can be weakly struck. It ranks 8th (Tied) overall and a surprisingly high 27th (Tied) in Gem condition. The P.I.s are not low, because its reputation is better than its scarcity.

1905-P,O&S: Another interesting year for Halves. The "P" and "O" are both low mintage, but the 1905-S is the scarcest in Mint Sate, ranking 17th overall (Tied) and 11th (Tied) in Gem condition. The Indexes are fairly low (MS63 P.I. = 48, Gem P.I. = 30). For the '05-P, there are 58 certified in Mint State, ten of which are Gems; 12 of the 48 Mint State '05-Os are Gems. Neither date has a low Price Index in MS63 or Gem condition. Still, the "P" and "O" are scarce coins in most circulated grades and highly desirable. The '05-S is only really tough in AU55 or above. All three coins are recommended in 'eye-appealing' Mint State. The 1905-O comes weakly struck, and fully-struck coins should not be expected. Accept one with a moderate strike if it has flashy luster.

1906-P,O&S: This first year of the Denver Mint, and some Branch Mint proofs are believed to exist. For the year, the "O" is the scarcest, ranking 28th (Tied) overall and 16th(Tied) in Gem condition. Both the "O" and "S" are presently undervalued in Mint State in general (MS63 P.I. = 38 & 44, respectively). In Gem Uncirculated, the "P", "D" and "O" are all underrated (Gem P.I. = 28, 21 & 23 respectively), while the "S" is fully priced relative to the others (Gem P.I. = 56). Gems of the "P" and "D", in particular, should be snatched up when available. There are only 6 Gems of the '06-D, and 5 of the '06-O have currently been certified.

1907-P,D,O&S: All but the 1907-S are common dates, with Mint state Pops of more than 100 coins each. The "S" is a great coin, however, ranking 5th (Tied) overall and 11th (Tied) in Gem Unc. It is the scarcest Half after 1904, and is on everyone's Want List in all grades above XF. Though the Price Indexes do not "jump out at you", buy this coin if available. Even lackluster specimens sell as soon as they appear in the market. The 1907-O suffers from a type of die buckling referred to as "mumps" (because the jaw and/or neck may be lumpy); it is also a weakly struck issue. Near-perfect specimens are in the minority and worth buying.

1908-P,D,O&S: The "D" and "O" are common dates, and the "P" is only slightly better. The '08-S is scarce - second only to the '07-S among dates after 1904. With a total Pop of 31, it ranks 13th in the series. Nice specimens should be bought in any grade above Fine. Relative to other Barber Halves, the '08-P is undervalued. Its MS63 P.I. is less than is less half that of the '08-D and '08-O (45 vs. 103 & 105, respectively), and equal to that of the '08-S. In Gem condition, the '08-S in underpriced, but the "P" and "D" are good buys too!

1909-P,O&S: The "P" is one of the most available dates in the set, while the "O" and "S" are better dates. Of these, the '09-S is a surprise, having a lower Pop than the "O" overall (47 vs 53). despite having almost twice the mintage. With an MS63 P.I. of 42, the "09-S is undervalued in all Mint States below Gem. None of the three issues are particularly cheap in MS65 and above (Gem P.I. = 50, 67 &53, respectively).

1910-P&S: The "P" is low mintage and hoarded in low grades (G-F). Enough new coins have been saved to rank it 40th (Tied) overall, but it is still a good buy in all Mint State grades (MS63 P.I. = 54; Gem P.I. = 30). The '10-P is scarcer from MS60 to MS64, but 13 Gems (vs 9 for the '10-P) have been graded. Strong collector demand makes the '10-S a good buy in lower uncirculated grades, despite an MS63 P.I. = 57.

1911-P,D&S: The "D" has the lowest mintage (695,000), but the "S" is the toughest, ranking 20th overall with just seven Gems. Nice Mint State specimens of the '11-S should be purchased in any grade. The '11-P is common in all grades, while the "D" is presently undervalued in Gem condition (Gem P.I. = 33).

1912-P,D&S: The "P" and "D" are common in all grades, while the '12-S is a better date and undervalued in most uncirculated grades (MS63 P.I. = 45).

1913-P,D&S: All three are lower mintage, especially the '13-P; however, enough of the Denver issues were saved (105 certified) to make it fairly common - except in Gem condition. In Gem, with just 5 certified, it is vastly underpriced at present (Gem P.I. = 19). The '13-P has strong collector demand in all grades from Fine up, but a surprising 44 Uncs are certified. Though 3rd lowest in mintage (only 188,000), it ranks 25th in overall for this issue. The '13-S is a good buy in Mint State (MS63 P.I. = 48) and Gem Unc (Gem P.I. = 34), but I would try to choose nice specimens.

1914-P&S: The '14-P, with a mintage of only 124,000, has great demand, but of the three low mintage years, it has been saved the most (Pop = 82, ranking 48th overall). However, until recently, no Gems had been certified; today, there are just three, and Gems are a good buy at current levels. However, some caution is called for, because there are a lot of MS64s, and if just a few are upgraded, the price will surely drop! The '14-s has a lower Pop than the '14-P, but quite a few more Gems survive; it's underrated below Gem condition (MS63 P.I. = 35).

1915-P,D&S: The "D" and "S" were saved as the last year of issue, and are high Pop coins. The '15-P, like the '13-P & '14-P, had a very low mintage (138,000; 2nd lowest the set), but some new specimens were saved (Pop = 47, ranking 26th (Tied) overall. It is similar to the '13-P in Mint State scarcity, and, like that date, also has great collector demand in circulated grades. With just 9 Gems, it's a good buy (Gem P.I. = 32) and there aren't nearly as many MS64s out there as is the case with the '14-P (eliminating concern about potential upgrades.

Barber	Total	Total	MS65	MS65	MS63	Gem
Halves	MS	Pop.	& Up	& Up	Price	Price
Issue	Pop.	Rank	Rank	Rank	Index	Index
1903-P	30	#12	4	#11T	32	27
1903-O	41	#21T	5	#16T	41	38
1903-S	52	#30	8	#31T	65	48
1904-P	43	#23T	4	#11T	35	14
1904-O	29	#8T	7	#27T	58	56
1904-S	10	#1	2	#3T	30	24
1905-P	58	#36	10	#38T	52	45
1905-O	48	#28T	12	#44T	50	60
1905-S	34	#17T	4	#11T	48	30
1906-P	161	#66	10	#38T	93	28
1906-D	100	#54	6	#22T	58	21
1906-O	48	#28T	5	#16T	38	23
1906-S	55	#32T	12	#44T	44	56
1907-P	164	#67	16	#58T	94	30
1907-D	108	#57	21	#66	62	39
1907-O	136	#61T	15	#55T	92	43
1907-S	23	#5T	4	#11T	48	40
1908-P	79	#47	13	#51T	45	39
1908-D	151	#63	18	#61T	103	33
1908-O	154	#65	47	#72	105	87
1908-S	31	#13	6	#22T	45	26
1909-P	237	#70	27	#69	136	50
1909-O	53	#31	17	#60	61	67
1909-S	47	#26T	19	#64T	42	53
1910-P	66	#40T	9	#35T	54	30
1910-S	41	#21T	13	#51T	57	47
1911-P	196	#68T	29	#70	113	54
1911-D	88	#51	18	#61T	60	33 .
1911-S	40	#20	7	#27T	38	38
1912-P	153	#64	6	#22T	88	19
1912-D	250	#71	25	#68	144	55
1912-S	60	#37T	12	#44T	45	53
1913-P	44	#25	14	#53T	57	42
1913-D	105	#55	5	#16T	71	19
1913-S	55	#32T	10	#38T	48	34
1914-P	82	#48	3	#5T	90	29
1914-S	74	#43	16	#58T	35	46
1915-P	47	#26T	9	#35T	71	32
1915-D	290	#72	33	#71	167	61
1915-S	196	#68T	24	#67	113	44

For current levels, an MS63 P.I. below 50 is undervalued; a Gem P.I. below 30 indicates coins which are undervalued. T=Tied for rank.

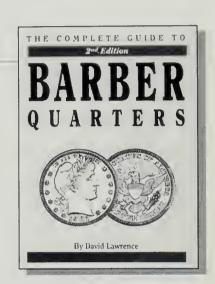
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